MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 AUGUST 1985

Lebanon

Artillery exchanges in and around Beirut gradually ceased several hours after a cease-fire announced by the Central Security Committee, Beirut radio reported. The committee, which met in the Shtawrah area under the chairmanship of the Syrian intelligence chief in Lebanon, had called for a cease-fire at 1300 local time in a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. The statement also noted that discussions will be held on the deployment of Syrian observers along the contact lines to identify those responsible for violating the cease-fire. Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after the cabinet meeting in Bikfayya, said the authorities "demand" that the presence of Syrian observers be effective, adding that they must be deployed throughout Beirut and not only along the contact lines. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri likewise viewed the deployment of Syrian observers along the combat lines as "insufficient," the radio reported, and he stressed the need to monitor artillery emplacements and other sources of fire. On the Christian side, the Phalangist Party Political Bureau acknowledged that the security situation cannot be fully controlled or stabilized without coordination with Syria and expressed hope that the decisions of the Central Security Committee will be implemented, the Voice of Lebanon noted.

Libya: Relations with Tunisia, Egypt

The Libyan foreign liaison secretary told foreign ambassadors that the Tunisian authorities have "unilaterally escalated the situation without any justification," Tripoli radio reported, while the Foreign Liaison Bureau handed a "strongly worded message" to the Tunisian general commissioner in Libya concerning Tunisia's "information campaign" against the Libyan people. An "informed Tunisian source" cited by AFP maintained that the Libyans warned the Tunisian envoy that Libya will "use force" against Tunisia if the latter does not halt its campaign against the expulsion of Tunisians. A Tunisian source also told Brussels radio that Libya massed over 20,000 troops near the Tunisian border 21-22 August. However, monitored Tunisian and Libyan media have not been observed to report a Libyan troop buildup or threat to use force against Tunisia. Meanwhile, a Libyan information official maintained that Libyan media refuse to be drawn into a war of words with the Tunisian media, JANA noted.

As for the deportation of Egyptians from Libya, Egyptian military sources cited by Kuwait's *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* indicated that Egypt is considering military action in response, pointing out that the Egyptian Air Force has been placed on alert and that aircraft have been transferred to bases in the region bordering Libya. However, in an *AL-AHRAM* interview reported by MENA, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak did not refer to military action against Libya, though he stated that Egypt will act to protect the rights of Egyptians on the basis of "legal factors." Foreign Minister 'Ismat al-Majid also informed international organizations in a letter carried by MENA that Egypt reserves the right to adopt "any legitimate and appropriate measure" to preserve its citizens' rights in the face of the "collective punishment" and "inhuman measures" applied by the Libyan authorities to Egyptian workers.

Morocco: Trial of Saboteurs

The trial began in Casablanca of members of the Islamic Youth Organization accused of planning to carry out acts of sabotage in Moroccan cities after receiving training from Algerian military security personnel, Rabat radio reported. Seventeen of the accused were arrested crossing into Morocco 10-11 July while the group's leader and eight others are still at large, the radio noted.

Iran and the Pilgrimage

Some 150,000 Iranian pilgrims and tens of thousands of other Muslim pilgrims participated in a march in Mecca after hearing a message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Tehran radio reported. The message, carried by the radio, berated the United States and the Iraqi regime, telling "dependent and reactionary" governments that their "empty conferences" and "futile statements" will be unable to save Saddam Husayn's "criminal" regime. Khomeyni also urged Muslims to expel "agents, phony experts and oil-plundering advisers" from their countries. While telling the pilgrims to raise slogans against "infidels and tyrants" in a "crushing" fashion, he stressed that pilgrims should observe discipline and refrain from shouting "unauthorized" slogans, following only the slogans and marches authorized by the official supervisors. Pilgrims who violate these instructions will be punished, he warned, because their actions could damage the "dignity" of Iranian pilgrims and undermine Muslim unity.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Karmal Greets Ceausescu on Romanian National Day

LD222046 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] A message of congratulation from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council, addressed to Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on the occasion of the Socialist Republic of Romania's national day has been sent to Bucharest.

In the message, the desire is expressed for the further promotion and development of relations and cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries in the interest of the people of the two countries and of international peace and security.

INDIAN EXPRESS Cites Dost on Geneva Talks

BK150436 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 8. — The Afghanistan Foreign Minister, Mr Shah Mohammed Dost, said his country favoured direct talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan on August 27 when the next round of UN-sponsored discussions is to open in Geneva. There cannot be much progress without direct talks between the two countries, he said, in an interview on Thursday at the end of his talks in Delhi.

So far, four rounds of "proximity talks" have been held in Geneva. The "proximity talks" mean that the UN Secretary General's representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, meets Mr Dost in one room and the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr Yakub Khan, in another and then exchanges messages.

The Karmal government's insistence on direct talks is mainly due to its desire to achieve Pakistan's recognition of its existence. Pakistan is opposed to the idea precisely for this reason.

Mr Dost said Islamabad is to let Mr Cordovez know before August 27 whether it is ready for direct talks or not. Only direct talks will show whether Pakistan's stand has changed on Afghanistan or not, he said.

The Afghan Foreign Minister made it clear that his government was not in favour of the Finlandisation of Afghanistan. He said he had read about the proposal but it had not been sent to Kabul. "It is not acceptable to us", he categorically stated.

The proposal for Finlandisation is being talked about in the West as a way out of the Afghanistan imbroglio. It involves the withdrawal of Soviet troops in return for the promise that its foreign policy and security interests will be protected in Afghanistan.

Mr Dost said that some headway had been made at the fourth round of proximity talks in Geneva. Three instruments that may have to be agreed upon by Afghanistan and Pakistan were discussed. These concerned:

(a) non-intervention and non-interference in Afghanistan;
(b) international guarantees on Afghanistan; and
(c) the return of bona fide refugees to Afghanistan.

Answering a question, he said that the Soviet Union and the United States were being considered as the powers which would give guarantees for maintaining the non-aligned sovereign status of Afghanistan as well as about non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Mr Dost gave the impression that at the fourth round of talks in Geneva not much discussions took place on a time-table for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

He said Soviet troops were there in Afghanistan because of attempts to destabilise Afghanistan. One must remove the reasons that had caused the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

He said there was no change in Moscow's position on Afghanistan after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's coming to power. The Soviet Union always wanted a political settlement of Afghanistan.

Mr Dost was not aware that Washington's position had changed on Afghanistan either. Pakistan would certainly change its position if the United States told it to do so, he said.

Pakistani Propaganda Increasing

LD230614 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 22, BAKHTAR — The new wave of anti-Afghan, forged and baseless propaganda campaign by the dictatorial regime of Pakistan against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) is assuming new portentious dimensions at a time when the fifth round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan is going to begin shortly in Geneva. This is stated today in a commentary published by daily *HAQIQAT-E-ENQELAB-E-SAWR*.

The article stresses, the continuation of this heinous method, pursued by the military regime of Islamabad and its Western patrons vis-a-vis revolutionary Afghanistan, is aimed at putting stumbling blocks in the process of Geneva talks and whip up tension in the region. Why the Islamabad ruling circles resort to such methods and make untrue fabrications? [Sentence as received]

Hereby, the Pakistani militarists try to cover the all-embracing crisis affecting the Pakistani society as a whole and to hoodwink the public opinion by dishing out forged stories.

It is not by accident that Zain Noorani, one of the deputies of the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan tried to bring to the forth the so-called Afghan and Soviet threat, which have been used repeatedly by his predecessors to justify the militaristic ambitions and the anti-national policy of the Pakistani rulers, and to penetrate it into the minds of the people.

The article adds, the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan reiterated in the Pakistani assembly that his country intends to reinforce its frontier forces to stand against the so-called aggression from Afghanistan. It clearly shows what aims lay behind this hullaballo.

The military regime of Ziaul Haq, by pushing the so-called myth of aggression by the Afghan and Soviet Armed Forces against Pakistan, pursues specific aims at this juncture. By reinforcing and strengthening its armed forces in the "frontier" areas, the military regime, on the one hand, intends to break down the national liberation movements of the Pashtun and Baluch people, and on the other, to render support to the Afghan bandits who found sanctuary in the territory of Pakistan.

The endeavours of the military regime of Pakistan, stresses the article, constitute the main obstacle on the path of the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan and the region. Practically, Pakistan has been transferred as the main center of undeclared war against the DRA which seriously threaten the cause of peace and security in the region and the world at large.

The article concludes that the ruling circles of Pakistan should rely on common sense and logic instead of launching provocative and aggressive acts against Afghanistan. They should give a positive response to the appeals of the peoples of the region for ensuring durable peace and security.

Mujahidin Claim Two Soviet Helicopters Downed

GF230626 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2127 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Aug (SPA) — The Afghan mujahidin shot down two Soviet helicopters during a raid by Soviet planes against mujahidin positions in the Lowgar Province, southeastern Afghanistan, last Monday [19 August].

A spokesman for a mujahidin group in Islamabad stated today that the Mujahidin used missiles to down the helicopters in the areas of (Azer) and (Arzenjan). He added that the helicopter crews were killed.

Tribesmen Prohibit 'Traitors' From Crossing Area

LD230635 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 23 Aug 85

["Pakistan Tribesmen" — BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul August 22, BAKHTAR — The declaration issued by the Jam'iat-e Ulema, Kheber agency, exposes the conspiracies hatched by the military regime of Pakistan to sow discord and enmity among various tribes and nationalities.

In another part, the declaration adds, the Pakistani militarists and their international patrons should know that the Afridi tribesmen have cemented their unity to safeguard and defend their land and the right of their agency.

The declaration concludes, henceforth, the Afghan [word indistinct] in Pakistan cannot cross the tribal areas particularly the Afridi regions to carry out murderous and plunderous acts inside Afghanistan. (?Anyone) rendering support to the Afghan traitors, will be fined 10 thousand Pakistani rupees.

5 Sentenced to Death, Prison in Market Bombing

LD221747 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] In an open trial today, which was attended by a number of Kabul citizens and residents of Microrayon in particular, a judicial delegation of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court sentenced to death and to various terms of imprisonment five criminals linked with the counterrevolutionary bands, who took part in causing an explosion at Microrayon market.

These criminals, Sayd Feroz Shah, son of Sayd Hasan Shah, resident of Taymani Wat; Emamoddin, son of Mehr Ali; Zamanoddin, son of Gol Ahmad; Sayd Ali, son of Mehr Ali; and Elhamoddin, son of Khayr Mohammad, resident of Chahar Qal'eh Vazirabad, openly confessed that they planted a bomb at Microrayon market on 10 July as a result of which 6 people died and 13 women, children, and juveniles were wounded.

They said that following a prepared plan they set the bomb at 1720 and left it behind a bicycle at the Microrayon market. They escaped by taxi from the place of the incident.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the trial opened with the reading of the individual charges against the accused, and then the board of judges, in accordance with Article No 30 of the DRA Basic Principles asked the accused to present their final defense in a completely democratic atmosphere.

After hearing the witnesses and the accused's defense, the court considered the available evidence and handed down the following sentences in accordance with the DRA's current laws:

Sayd Ali, son of Mehr Ali, was sentenced to death in accordance with amendments Article 175 and Paragraph 30 of Article 217 of the DRA criminal code. Sayd Feroz Shah, and Emamoddin and Zamanoddin, both of whom are under 18 years of age, were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment from the date of their arrest. This sentence was passed in accordance with Article 175 and Paragraph 30 of Article 217 and in consideration of Article 84 of the penal code.

Elhamoddin, son of Khayr Mohammad, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in accordance with the aforementioned articles.

The sentence for Sayd Ali is applicable following endorsement by the DRA Revolutionary Council in accordance with Article 58 of the DRA Basic Principles. The court sentences regarding the rest of the accused are final and applicable in accordance with Article 11 of the law of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court.

USSR To Provide 'Free' Technical Assistance

LD230624 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 22, BAKHTAR — The Soviet Union is giving a number of technical implements including radio-TV

transmitters worth over two million rubles to the DRA free of charge.

The Ministry of Trade of the DRA and the trade representative of the Soviet Union in Kabul concluded an agreement in the field in Kabul today.

A source of the Ministry of Trade of the DRA said that, this assistance will be delivered to the Afghan side stage by stage until the year 1986.

BBC Links With CIA, Imperialism Assailed
LD221755 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
0735 GMT 22 Aug 85

[BAKHTAR political commentary]

[Text] According to a saying by [name indistinct], an American philosopher, contemporary capitalists cannot persist without the (?help) of very sophisticated propaganda, the aim of which is to confuse and intimidate the people.

It should be added that at present, the propaganda machine of international imperialism, united and under the supervision of the imperialist espionage establishments, are acting as the main tool for (?spreading) state terrorism by imperialism.

Recently the British press engaged in a polemic concerning the fact that the BBC, instead of broadcasting news, had become the news. *THE OBSERVER* reported a few days ago that MI5, the British security and information organ, is vetting the background of a number of staff who applied for work in the BBC.

This polemic in the British press is mostly aimed at masking the influence of intelligence over the propaganda work of the BBC and is also an attempt to justify such control.

The British press, which is now trying to conceal relations between the BBC and British espionage organizations, confessed at the beginning of the tense decade of the eighties that close cooperation exists between the BBC and the British espionage establishments.

The U.S. weekly [name indistinct] wrote in one of its issues that the espionage establishment and foreign department, in particular the Foreign Information Department [as heard] which was created in 1976, are the major conduits of information for the departments of BBC radio.

The news fabricating network of the BBC is not only in close alliance with the British espionage establishments, but is firmly linked with the central espionage organization of the United States, the CIA.

A BBC weekly [as heard] officially reported the fact that the first agreement between the BBC radio network and the CIA concerning the exchange of information was concluded in 1948. Efforts toward the coordination of imperialist policy in the area of propaganda has become concurrent with the active cooperation between U.S. imperialism and its allies.

In fact, there is no doubt that the major centers of foreign broadcasts, Radio Liberty, [name indistinct], BBC, and the Voice of America have close links with the CIA and [word indistinct] NATO and take part in seminars, debates, and consultations which NATO organizes for journalists.

A member of the British Parliament and an important British expert in psychological war stated in 1965 that if we consider the word strategic, as in strategic bombardment, then radio is without doubt the most effective form of strategic propaganda. This statement has been expressed in a different form in the official minutes of the U.S. Congress, which state: Radio is the most valuable tool of foreign policy. It is necessary to (?organize) the strategic role of radio stations and draw conclusions regarding them from the viewpoint of strategic priorities.

There is a great deal of evidence which shows the truth of the fact that the BBC is not only in close cooperation with the British espionage organizations and is a newsmaking and fabricating network, but is coopearting with the CIA and the audiovisual department [as heard] of the aggressive NATO pact. This proves that it is on the foundation of such a strategic link and unity of (?action) with the propaganda machinery of imperialism that the BBC is also actively engaged in psychological war against the people and country.

Tanzanian President To Arrive 24 August

BK161525 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania will be arriving in India on the 24th of this month on a 4-day state visit in the course of a 3-nation tour. The other two countries he is visiting are China and North Korea.

Mr Nyerere is laying down the office of president of Tanzania in October after which he will continue only as the chief of the ruling party of that country. His Asian tour is in the nature of a farewell visit.

Commerce Secretary on Increased Trade With USSR

BK221627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] India's trade with the Soviet Union has increased by about 2.7 times during the 5 years 1981-85 as compared to the previous 5 years. The commerce secretary, Mr Prem Kumar, told newsmen in New Delhi today that it was envisaged the trade will double from 6,000 crore rupees during 1976-80 to 12,000 crores during 1981-85. Then it has touched the figure of 13 crores [figure as heard] during 1984 and is likely to reach 17,000 crores by the end of this year.

Reward Posted for Arrest of Fugitive Assassin

BK230326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Punjab government has announced a reward of 1.5 lakh rupees for the arrest or information leading to the arrest of Jarnail Singh, the third accomplice in the Sant Longowal assassination case. Jarnail Singh escaped from the scene of crime in the melee which followed the shootout. The police carried out raids at the possible hideout of Jarnail Singh during the last 2 days.

'Outside Forces' Suspected in Longowal Murder

HK231226 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 23 (AFP) — Investigators believe that hired killers may have murdered moderate Sikh leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, intelligence sources said today.

They said they had reason to believe that the killers of Mr. Longowal were hired "by parties opposed to" a July 24 accord between Premier Rajiv Gandhi and moderate Sikhs led by Mr. Longowal, "or by outside forces."

The sources refused to name the "outside forces", but one police source said the teams were investigating the "possibility" of Pakistan's involvement. Pakistan has consistently denied charges that it is involved in any way with an often violent Sikh separatist campaign in India's north.

Investigators have also been probing the possibility that Sikh militants trained in Pakistan were responsible for a series of recent killings in Punjab, culminating in Tuesday's murder of Mr. Longowal.

Punjab police chief K.P.S. Gill arrived here late yesterday to lead investigations into the murder, which came as a jolt to Mr. Gandhi's peace plan for Punjab.

Two of the alleged assailants, Gian Singh and Malvinder Singh, are being questioned by police, but neither have been charged or appeared in court. Local press reports said a third man was being sought.

Police today asked the Sikh Temple committee in Amritsar, site of Sikhism's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, to ensure that the temple complex was not turned into a militant fortress again.

Police sources said that two senior officials and the temple committee were questioned last night by investigators, who asked them to guarantee that the temple would not be turned into a hiding place of Sikh separatists.

Last year, hard core militants had taken refuge in the temple, and an army assault on the shrine in June last year to flush them out left some 650 people dead.

Meanwhile, police today confirmed that several hundred All India Sikh Students Federation members had gone underground after the killing of Mr. Longowal.

"We have started expanding the police dragnet... we hope to achieve a breakthrough soon", one police source said.

The killing has left the Akali Dal in confusion, with a former split between moderates and militants now worsened by divisions among the moderates, with two interim leaders as successors to Mr. Longowal appointed by rival groups.

Mr. Gandhi has said he will go ahead with state elections planned for next month, bowing to pressure from the opposition and members of his own Congress (I) Party only to the extent of postponing the polls by three days to September 25, to respect the period of mourning.

The pro-militant United Akali Dal, led by Joginder Singh, has not yet decided whether to take part in the polls, and has postponed a scheduled meeting to discuss the issue.

Pakistan Accused

BK221615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, assured the Rajya Sabha today that all aspects of the situation prevailing in Punjab will be taken into consideration before taking a final decision on holding elections in the state. He was giving clarification on points raised by members on his statement regarding the assassination of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal and a shooting incident at Jullundur on Tuesday. He strongly refuted the allega-

tion that political considerations had weighed with the government on its decision about elections in Punjab. The only consideration behind the decision, he said, was to restore the democratic process.

Referring to the extremist activities in the state, Mr Chavan asked members whether it will be proper to postpone the elections and submit to extremism. He said this aspect has to be taken into consideration. The minister agreed with a member that some people are being trained outside the country. He said Pakistan is taking an active part in providing the training. Mr Chavan said some such people had infiltrated into the country, but there is no definite clue about their number.

Mr Chavan said that Sant Longowal was provided security at the meeting addressed by him. Inside the Gurdwara [Sikh temple] where he addressed the meeting in Sherpur Village, a security team of plainclothed police personnel was available. The minister described as baseless a suggestion that there is any prima facia link between the security personnel and the extremists. He disclosed that some of the high-ranking security officials provided to Sant Longowal was chosen by the sant himself.

Assassin Claims Pakistan Training

HK231322 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Amritsar, India, Aug 23 (AFP) — A Sikh militant has confessed that he and others were paid 350,000 rupees (30,000 dollars) to assassinate Harchand Singh Longowal, gunned down in a Punjab village Tuesday, police sources said today.

Police sources would not give the man's name, but said he had told investigators yesterday that he had been given weapons training in a camp inside a jail in the Pakistani town of Lahore.

Police suspected that the man was the brain behind the killing of Mr. Longowal and a member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Punjab who was shot dead hours before the assault on Mr. Longowal.

The man, who police said was arrested earlier this week, said he had crossed the border into Pakistan in December, and returned to India in April with the specific aim of carrying out the murder, the police sources said.

Intelligence sources said today that they believed the killers may have been hired by "parties opposed to" a July 24 accord between Premier Rajiv Gandhi and moderate Sikhs led by Mr. Longowal "or by outside forces."

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today that a total of six people were involved in the killing of Mr. Longowal. It said a further two had been arrested, and named them as Nirmal Singh and Darshan Singh.

The arrested man quoted by police sources today said that two Sikh militants were in charge of the Lahore camp, Atinder Pal Singh and Gurmeet Singh, a relative of the late fiery militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

The man told interrogators that Pakistan had rejected a request for granting of permanent political asylum to Sikh militants, but had told him that Sikh fugitives could stay there temporarily, police said.

He confessed that he had brought 350,000 rupees with him to carry out the killings, and said he had brought 10 to 12 Sikhs with him to carry out the murders.

It was just a coincidence that Mr. Longowal was killed soon after he signed a peace accord with Mr. Gandhi, the man said — the plan was to kill him any time, but they did not get a proper chance before this week.

Neither the man nor his counsel were available for comment on the reported confession.

Selection of Akali Dal Leader Challenged

HK230144 Hong Kong AFP in English 0045 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Amritsar, India, August 22 (AFP) — The moderate section of Sikh Akali Dal political party has suffered another blow as they failed to elect a leader unanimously to replace their slain president.

Party sources in this Sikh holy city said there were conflicting reports about the election of a new leader to succeed Harchand Singh Longowal who was gunned down by some Sikh youths believed to be militants Tuesday.

The contest for the leadership was between a former minister Surjit Singh Barnala and Sant Ajit Singh.

According to PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, Mr Barnala was elected convenor of the party at a meeting of the district party presidents held at village Longowal soon after the cremation of Sant Longowal yesterday, Kuldeep Singh Wadala, president of the Jalandhar District Akali Dal said in a statement issued in Jalandhar today.

He also issued a list of the district party presidents who had voted for Mr Barnala.

Talib Singh Sandhu and Suchu Singh Chotapur, presidents of two other districts, also issued a statement at Ludhiana today claiming that Sant (religious man) Ajit Singh was elected convenor of the party.

They too circulated a list of 14 district party presidents who, they claimed, had voted for Sant Ajit Singh.

The two party officials said the names of Mr Barnala and G.S. Tohra, who is president of the Sikh temple managing committee, were also proposed but they secured "nominal votes," PTI said.

An Akali Dal source, who asked not to be named, said the report of Mr Barnala's election was not final.

He said: "Ajit Singh is a sant. Hence he should lead the party."

However, a last minute effort is on to prevent a show-down within the moderate faction.

The source said that important Sikh leaders will meet here tomorrow to end the leadership crisis.

Informed sources said that Mr Barnala, a moderate and co-architect of the Punjab accord which late Sant Longowal signed last month with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ending Akali Dal's five year old autonomy demand, may prevail upon his opponents.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi the Election Commission tonight said that polls would be held in Punjab on September 25 instead of 22 as announced earlier.

Announcing the change in the polling date, the commission said the notification calling the electorate to choose their representatives will be issued on August 26.

The commission announcement about the final date for polls in the state to elect a new legislative assembly put a stop to all speculations and demands by various opposition parties to put off the elections following Sant Longowal's assassination.

In a joint statement yesterday opposition leaders belonging to seven right and left parties said that the slaying of Mr Longowal, chairman of the main opposition party in Punjab, had changed the situation in the state.

The opposition leaders urged Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's federal government to put off the polls indefinitely.

Mr Gandhi's Congress Party, however, today disagreed with the opposition plea that elections in Punjab be postponed till normalcy returned to the state.

The Executive Committee of the party's parliamentary wing, which met under the chairmanship of Mr Gandhi, felt that people of Punjab wanted peace, work and production. Only a handful of militants were getting assistance and training from outside the country and should be faced politically and administrately [as received] and expressed itself in favour of holding of the poll as scheduled, a party spokesman said. [As received]

Punjab is now under direct rule of federal President Zail Singh who took over the administration on October 6, 1983 following increasing militant activities.

The opposition leaders' statement said the murder of Mr Longowal and some recent killings in the state had exposed "ineffective security arrangements" and given a blow to the atmosphre of peace and harmony created by the accord.

Under existing rules, the presidential rule is to expire on October 5 at the completion of the maximum allowed period of two years.

A further extension, in the event a new legislative assembly was not constituted after a fresh poll, would require a constitutional amendment.

Commission Postpones Punjab Election by 3 Days

BK230207 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Punjab elections will be held on the 25th instead of the 22d of next month. This decision was made by the Election Commission in New Delhi last night. These elections will be for 13 Lok Sabha seats and 117 state assembly seats. Under the new plan, the directives will be issued next Monday. The last date for submitting nomination papers will be 2 September. They will be scrutinized on the next day and withdrawal of nominations will last through 5 September. A press release by the commission says that the change in the polling has been made in view of the final funeral rites of the late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal on Sunday.

The request in this regard was made by the chief secretary of the state, Mr P.H. Vaishnav, who met Chief Election Commissioner Mr R.K. Trivedi in New Delhi last night. He said that the state government has full confidence that all arrangements will be made to hold elections in an orderly manner. Keeping recent incidents in mind, the state government has reviewed the measures devised to conduct free and fair polls. Accordingly, overall security measures will be tightened. The chief secretary assured Mr Trivedi that the law and order situation is fully under control and that there will be no lapse in security arrangements for those participating in the election activities.

Commission, Akali Dal on Elections

BK221622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The secretary to the Election Commission, Dr I.P. Bhalla, said in New Delhi today that the election process in Punjab will go ahead as scheduled if nothing contrary was heard from the state government by midnight tonight. Talking to newsmen, he said till this evening the Punjab government had not sent its reply to the commission about its reassessment of the law and order situation in the state.

PTI reports from Chandigarh that many Akali leaders are said to be in favor of holding elections in Punjab on 22 September as proposed. Brisk political activity is on in the Akali Dal camp on the issue of choosing a successor to the late Sant Longowal. A former Punjab chief minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, and the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Sikh Temple Management Committee] chief, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, had a closed-door meeting this morning. Three leaders of the United Akali Dal also met Mr Badal this morning in Chandigarh.

Meanwhile, differences seemed to have arisen over the question of convenership of the Akali Dal. While according to one section, a former union minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, was elected convener at a meeting of the party jathedar [group leaders] held at Longowal village yesterday, the other section maintained that Sant Ajit Singh of Ropar was elected to the post at the same meeting. When contacted by the AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent, senior Akali Dal leaders refused to comment on the issue.

In a statement issued in Chandigarh today, a senior Akali Dal leader, Mr Sukhjinder Singh, said the Dal should ensure implementation of the Punjab accord in its totality.

Gandhi Remarks on Punjab Election
BK231303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The prime minister has said that the electoral process in Punjab has acquired a new national significance in the context of the recent events. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that a democratic election is the people's answer to the brute force employed by a small section to impose their will on the masses. He declared that we shall not allow the divisive forces to prevail and shall serve as the instrument to enable the democratic process to triumph whatever be the risk to ourselves. As the custodian of the people's will and mandate, he said that he is fully committed to this cause. The democratic society has enough strength to close its ranks to face the dangers that confront it. The prime minister said we shall demonstrate that we are capable of rising above expediency.

Referring to the schedule for elections in Punjab announced by the Election Commission, he said the fundamental issue before all political parties committed to the democratic system is: Shall we allow the exercise of the free will of the people to be obstructed, frustrated, and subverted by the forces of extremism and terrorism? He said on a correct response to this question hangs the fate of the democratic system in India. Either all political parties unitedly face the sinister challenge of terrorism by strengthening the democratic process, or they succumb to the threat from terrorism and extremism.

AFP on Punjab Elections
HK180832 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 18 Aug 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, August 18 (AFP) — Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party faces an acid test in forthcoming elections in Punjab, political analysts said today.

There are also fears that the polls might spark clashes between moderate and militant Sikhs, the analysts said.

The Federal Election Commission said last night that voters in the northern state were to go to the polls on September 22 to elect a state assembly, and to fill 13 seats [as received] in the federal parliament.

There was no polling in Funjab in the last general election in November, because of violent unrest in the state arising from a Sikh campaign for greater political autonomy for the rich farming state, where Sikhs predominate.

Analysts said that the state election might prove crucial for Mr. Gandhi as it would be the first time his policies would be put to a real test.

They said that last night's Election Commission announcement surprised many here because as it was expected that Mr. Gandhi would allow some time to pass before taking the risk of announcing elections in Punjab.

"The situation in the Punjab is still fluid ... we do not know how strong are the militants," said one analyst.

"By announcing the elections Mr. Gandhi has taken a risk."

But another analyst said that the risk was a calculated one: "The surprise element and lack of time that the Sikhs, specially the militants, will have in preparing or disrupting the elections are the two factors which may go in favour of the prime minister's party."

There is no word about whether the Congress (I) Party is to strike an election pact with the moderate faction of the Akali Dal.

"If the militants come up and stand for elections, Mr. Gandhi may try to enter into at least seat adjustment with the moderates," said an analyst.

Under a seat-adjustment deal the Congress (I) Party and the Akali Dal moderates would not field candidates against each other — only against the militants.

Meanwhile, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency said that Akali Dal moderate faction leader Harchand Singh Longowal had called an emergency meeting of his party for tomorrow to review the situation and take an electoral stand.

Analysts said that the polls could create law-and-order problems in Punjab.

But a federal official here said: "We cannot afford to relax security arrangements there ... for every booth there may a dozen security men."

3 Killed in Extremist Raid in Tripura District
BK230338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] In Tripura, three nontribals, including a forester, have been killed by extremists at Ganganagar in the northern district.

According to police, the forester and some laborers were kidnapped from the (Purwaraipasa) forest beat office yesterday. The police party which went to rescue them was also attacked by the extremists.

Spokesman Denies Indian Infiltration Charges

BK230314 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad has rejected as false and baseless the allegation of the Indian home minister that some armed persons from Pakistan had infiltrated into India some time in the past. The spokesman said that such baseless allegations are regrettable as the atmosphere of bilateral relations are contaminated and the efforts of both governments to strengthen mutual trust are vitiated.

South Pacific Nuclear Free Accord Welcomed

BK221652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has sent messages to the heads of governments in the South Pacific Forum welcoming the adoption of a treaty establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the South Pacific. The prime minister said Pakistan has consistently supported creation of nuclear weapons-free zones in various regions of the world as an important means to promote regional and international security and the objective of nuclear nonproliferation. We have followed with close interest the endeavors of South Pacific nations to establish a nuclear weapons-free zone in their region.

He said the Government of Pakistan, therefore, warmly welcomes the decision of the South Pacific countries to establish this zone where use, ownership, or stationing of nuclear weapons will be prohibited.

The prime minister said the political foresight and wisdom demonstrated by South Pacific leaders is worthy of international admiration. Pakistan shall cooperate with South Pacific countries in securing universal acceptance of this denuclearized zone, in particular by the nuclear weapons states.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said it is also Pakistan's hope that the example set by South Pacific will inspire countries in other parts of the world, including South Asia, to cooperate with each other in creating nuclear weapons-free zones in their regions.

The messages have been sent to the heads of government of Australia, [name indistinct], Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu,and Western Samoa.

Baluchistan Chief Minister on Offshore Fishing

BK230411 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Baluchistan chief minister, Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan, has said that the laws pertaining to offshore fishing will be strictly enforced so as to prevent the movement of foreign trawlers in the territorial waters of Baluchistan.

Addressing a gathering of delegates in Pasni yesterday, he gave assurances that all possible efforts will be made to fulfil the expectations of the people and solve their problems on a priority basis. Later, several delegations met with the Baluchistan chief minister.

BANGLADESH

Soviet Foreign Ministry Team Concludes Talks

BK221554 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Official level talks between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union ended in Dhaka today. A Foreign Office spokesman said the talks, held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, have contributed to a better understanding of each other.

The two sides have apprised each other of the views of their respective governments on matters of mutual interest and agreed to further develop cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral areas. They have also exchanged views on the agenda items of the forthcoming 40th session of the UN General Assembly. The additional foreign secretary, Mr Rizaul Karim, led the Bangladesh team at the talks, while the Soviet side was led by the head of the South Asia desk of the Foreign Ministry, Mr A.I. Valkov.

SRI LANKA

LTTE To Arm Tamil Civilians for 'All-Out' War

HK221314 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 22 (AFP) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) plan to arm Sri Lankan Tamil civilians to prepare for total war to establish a separate Tamil state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today in a dispatch from Madras.

The "hit and run" tactics so far employed by Tamil separatists wanting a separate state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka will eventually be replaced by an all-out war, said LTTE spokesman A.S. Balasingam.

The LTTE was one of six Tamil separatist groups represented at peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government in Bhutan, which have collapsed with no date fixed for their resumption, an Indian high commission spokesman said in Colombo today.

Army on Full Alert

HK230749 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 23 Aug 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP) — Security forces went on full alert in Sri Lanka today after peace talks between the government and Tamil separatists collapsed and a Tamil group said it was preparing for war, official sources said.

Tension was heightened by remarks yesterday by a militant Tamil spokesman in southern India who said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) would arm Tamil civilians to prepare for war.

Spokesman A.S. Balasingham reportedly said in Madras that the "hit and run" tactics so far employed by Tamil separatists would eventually be replaced by all-out war.

Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis said that the government had done its best to seek a solution at the conference table, but that had not been agreeable to the Tamils.

He said the government would continue to seek a political solution but if the Tamils were averse to it, the government would have no option but to fight.

The security forces were placed on full alert shortly after the news of the collapse of the talks reached Colombo yesterday, security sources said.

"We are ready if the terrorists resume their attacks," one source said, adding that intelligence reports showed that militants were massing in the northeast Trincomalee area in particular.

Another security source welcomed the idea of war.

"All this time the terrorists have been planting explosives and blasting our soldiers or shooting at us from among civilians so that we cannot strike back. But we would welcome a direct confrontation," the source said.

"If they arm the civilians, then we can no longer be accused of killing civilians as the terrorists do now. Then there is no difference between the combatants and civilians," the source added.

A member of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party and a participant at the talks, described the LTTE's warning of war [as] "an unfortunate one."

Mr. Balasingham "speaks of total war," he said. "Our people won't take it like that. They do not want to be armed."

Another TULF member told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from Jaffna, the northern capital and center of the Tamil militancy, described the remarks as ill-timed and unnecessary [sentence as received]. "This is the time to try and revive hopes of peace," he said.

A veteran politician said, "It is unfortunate the talks ended up like this. We must hope and pray that all return to the talks...there was so much expectancy. Almost all the people were waiting for peace so that the country will return to normalcy."

He said both sides should compromise so a solution could be reached.

At Jaffna University students staged a demonstration yesterday demanding the release of some Tamils held in detention, Jaffna sources said.

Reports also said that a TULF politician was killed by militants and tied to a lamp post in northeast Mullaitivu.

Continuing Reportage on Hajj Ceremonies in Mecca

Khomeyni Message to Pilgrims

LD221855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpts] A mammoth march by pilgrims to the Holy House of God was held in grand Mecca with a message from Imam Khomeyni this morning. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in his report said that in these demonstrations -- held as a means to keep away from infidels -- some 150,000 Iranian pilgrims and tens of thousands from other Islamic countries took part. The full text of the message by the imam of the ummah, which was read out before the start of these glorious ceremonies, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The pilgrims to the House of God and those who want to reach the sight of God, are making a pilgrimage from their homes and loved ones to God and his dear messenger in a year when the Grand Ka'bah has opened its embrace to welcome the Muslims with their love of righteousness and justice and with their crushing cries against the super oppressors of the age and the world's super plunderers.

The Holy House of God and the Grand Ka'bah is embracing beloved pilgrims who are redirecting the hajj from political isolation and fundamental deviation towards the hajj as intended by Ebrahim and Muhammad, who are reviving it and who are smashing Eastern and Western idols, who are rising en masse and shunning infidels. The hearts of the pilgrims, who have traveled to the place of promise and who have come from the land that has rejected East and West, are beating to respond positively to the call by God to pursue the right path towards humanitarianism; to purge sectarianism by rejecting Eastern and Western schools of thought and deviationist nationalism; to empathize with one another in equality and fraternity regardless of color, nationality and geographical location and to reinforce their unity.

They should attack in unison the enemies of mankind and bullying world devourers. The jamarat [the ritual of stone throwing during the hajj] is expected of those dedicated ones who have come from a country whose courageous nation has fearlessly driven out big, medium and small satans from its country and which has cut off their unclean hands from its homeland's resources.

'Arafat, Mash'ar and Mina are hosting a people whose Muslim nation has risen with political consciousness and awareness in order to implement Islamic aspirations and teachings in their country and in other oppressed and wronged countries, and to expose deceitful politicians who, with their trickery and duplicity, are attacking the wronged people of the world and who have plundered everyone's wealth. And you and we have seen how a small nation -- in a limited environment [as heard] and small numbers -- eliminated from the world a tyrannical regime, despite all its weapons of war and all the support it enjoyed from the superpowers, with great determination, a powerful will, an iron fist, and with reliance upon God, the most exalted and omipotent. You and we have seen how that nation cut off the hands of superpowers from its country.

We have seen how that nation has responded to the media associated with satanical powers which devote most of their time, day and night, spreading lies and baseless propaganda and fomenting sedition — a response that brought only disgrace to those media and their bosses. All their allegations only further strengthened the Islamic Republic and drew the attention of the world's oppressed and deprived ever more to the Islamic Republic. We have seen how, thanks to the will of the most exalted God, their allegations of terrorism and nurturing of terrorism which are being voiced increasingly and most conspicuously against the Islamic Republic — something that the ringleaders of the White House and their associates and the propaganda apparatus associated with super criminals imagined could weaken the Islamic Republic — have proved counterproductive, have weakened the enemies of the Islamic Republic and Islam, and have strengthened our nation's morale, particularly the combatants and other wronged and oppressed nations. You plot and God plots, verily God is a better plotter. [Koranic verse]

One of the ways in which God comes to one's defense and makes the White House's plot rebound on it, lies in the fact that the terrorist-nurturing activity of America's Black House bosses is something that is well known to everyone, even America's intellectuals. By excluding the Iraqi regime from the list of terrorists, the Black House has made it patently obvious that it nurtures and supports terrorism. The White House's bench mark for identifying terrorism or otherwise is based on the degree of opposition to or agreement with its crimes across the world. While the Iraqi regime was in opposition to White House crimes it was on the list of terrorist-nurturing states. When it bowed subserviently to the Black House it was withdrawn from that list, even though its terrorist plots in the region, and in the Persian Gulf region in particular, have been exposed to all and sundry.

Thanks be to God, today Iran and other Muslim nations have found their way and the multitude of the pilgrims to the Holy House of God, from Iran and other Islamic countries, have gathered around the Holy Mosque, the focal point of Islam, the assembly point of God's angels, the place where divine revelations appeared, to do their divine and Koranic duty, namely to cry out for shunning infidels.

If the representatives of 1 billion Muslims were to identify, with particulars, those who have committed aggression against the rights of the oppressed and the land of Muslims for the purpose of shunning them and demand that the hands of the oppressors be cut off, no power on earth would be able to withstand them. If Islamic nations and the governments of Islamic states, with all their human resources and their vital resources needed by big powers, were to approach them from a position of strength, to be unafraid of the palace-dwellers' hue and cry, to avoid being influenced by the poisonous propaganda put out by the mercenaries of super criminals, to raise their voice against them in thanksgiving to God's blessings and with reliance on the boundless might of God, and to threaten to close their borders to them and cut off aid to them in terms of oil and other things, then there is no doubt that in the face of this source of power, which we still do not fully appreciate, they would surrender.

At this point, certain points, repetitious though they may be, will be noted in the hope that they may prove useful:

1. Before anything else, I should humbly point out that the esteemed sisters and brothers from Islamic countries must perform the hajj, this great act of worship which you are about to do, in a proper way and in accordance with God's commandment, and learn about its details from senior ulema carefully, lest after a passage of time some defects in this matter might be discerned, thus negating your hajj.

2. You beloved pilgrims have gone towards truth from a country where, as the result of the blessings of God and the prayers of God's great envoy [the hidden imam] — may my soul be sacrificed at his feet — you have left behind your hardships, difficulties and oppressions and, thanks to God, have been victorious in all fields; and this is just the beginning.

From a cultural point of view, today you have rejected the rotten Eastern and Western cultures and the decadent culture of the monarchical period which was dragging our beloved youths towards corruption, and which had placed our universities at the service of the West and, maybe, the East.

Today you have rejected the cultures which made our nation a dependent consumer nation, at the service of the powers, and which were spreading corruption, prostitution and drug addiction, and were leading towards the destruction of humanity and morality. Instead, you have replaced those cultures with human dignity, piety, courage, bravery, patience, valor, kindliness, cooperation in piety and righteousness and attention to the interests of the nation and the country. Today, you are proudly advancing towards the implementation of divine culture.

From a social point of view, with your solid ranks, you are strengthening the unity among various groups and are all moving in the same direction, and have rejected and isolated the sowers of sedition, the factionalists, and the deaf and blind servants of the East and West. You have turned all the various strata into a united class and have mobilized all in the service of the country, nation and eternal religion of God.

From a political point of view, you have turned today's Iran into a talking point for all the friendly and hostile countries. Mankind has fixed its gaze towards the Islamic movement which has revived the reality of Islam. They have arisen for the sake of Islamic unity, under the banner of monotheism, whose call has been raised from this corner of the world and which has reverberated throughout the world, and they have engaged in endeavor and jihad. Our enemies are very frightened of this divine spark which will cut off their criminal hands from the lands and peoples of God. However, the power of Islam has denied them any rest. The fear of the Islamic nations' solidarity, and, following in their footsteps, the oppressed people of the world, has made them tremble. Large and small governments from the East and the West are anxious to have relations with Iran and the Islamic Republic and are making great attempts towards this. All this is due to the special grace of Almighty God and the blessings of great Islam. There is no power and no might but with the all-powerful, the all-blessed God.

From a political point of view, today the Iraqi regime is desperate and defeated and is on the verge of extinction. All the military equipment from the East and West and all the support provided by the world-devourers has not been able to save that mercenary regime. The crushing blows of the forces of Islam have denied them any chance to think, and it is hoped that, as the result of divine assistance, this thorn will be ignominously removed from the path of Muslims, especially the noble Iraqi nation; and the Muslim Iraqi nation may hold its destiny in its own hands and may live in fraternity and equality with the rest of the Muslims.

3. One of the issues which I would like to emphasize, although it has been pointed out before, is that in the marches -- although the shouts of revolution against the infidels and the tyrants should be raised in a crushing fashion and with general participation so that the call of the wrongs inflicted upon the Muslims and the nations which are under the domination of the super criminals will reach the ears of all people and will awaken those who are asleep, will enlighten those who are silent in the face of the oppressors, and will chastise and suppress those who, contrary to the orders of God and the teachings of the glorious Koran and the traditions of the messenger of God, God's peace and blessings be upon him and his kin, are endeavoring in support of the infidels and international blood-suckers, especially the mercenary court akhonds [derogatory term for Muslim clergy] who with their pens and speeches are trying to extinguish the light of God and the flame which has appeared in the world in order to release the wronged people from the oppression of the tyrants -- nevertheless, it is incumbent upon them to observe order and discipline and Islamic injunctions with due care and attention.

They should refrain from unauthorized slogans which might have been raised at the instigation of deviationists in order to create unrest and in order to damage the dignity of the pilgrims from different Islamic countries, especially the Islamic Republic.

They should strictly follow the slogans which are authorized by the supervisors of the marches, on the direct orders of my representative, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr Karrubi, may God bestow success upon him, and should not violate those orders. They should not follow those who may wish to raise certain slogans contrary to orders; and should they persist in their efforts they should be expelled. They should only take part in the marches which have been planned and should not organize other marches on their own initiative.

They should know that should harm be done to the dignity of the pilgrims from different countries and from the Islamic Republic as the result of their violations, and due to exceeding the limits which have been imposed, they are responsible in the sight of God Almighty and will be punished. They should know that one of the important goals of the great gathering of Muslims from all over the world in this holy place and the seat of inspiration is the unification of all the Muslims of the world and the strengthening of unity among the followers of Islam and the glorious Koran in the face of the satans of the world. If, God forbid, as the result of the behavior of some of the pilgrims this unity is harmed and their actions lead to dissention, this will give rise to the anger of the prophet of God, may God's blessings be upon him and his kin, and to punishment by God Almighty.

4. I humbly say to all dear pilgrims to the Holy House of Allah and hajj from every country, tribe and sect: All of you are

of the Islamic nation and followers of the prophet and the commands of the Holy Koran. All of you have the same fierce enemies who have been creating divisions with the aid of their miserable agents, mass media and discord-fostering propaganda throughout history and particularly at the present time; and have conquered all of the Islamic states and nations. They are plundering the rich resources of your country and the results of the efforts of the oppressed people of your lands. They are intent on keeping the eyes and ears of your governments closed and retaining them in their service; on forcing a consumer economy upon the nations at the hands of those governments; on preventing the growth of human resources and industrial initiative in the oppressed countries with their satanical plots and deceits; on increasing dependence upon the East and West; on denying everyone the chance of thinking, for the sake of independence and inventiveness; and on suppressing the rise of the awakening of nations.

The shameful situation that you now witness in Islamic countries and other wronged countries is entirely due to these conspiracies of the common enemies of Muslims and deprived people. Now that -- on the orders of God and his messenger -- you have gathered in the center of life-giving Islam, and have assembled together from various sects and nations in this grand place, you should find a remedy for this fatal ailment and this life-destroying cancer. You should know that the fundamental cure is dependent upon the unity of all the Muslims and their unanimity in cutting off the hands of superpowers from Islamic countries, and on the implementation of the slogans raised in the sacred spots and the holy shrines in their own countries.

The first step is to erase despair which has been implanted in the hearts of the Muslims through the vile agents of the East and West and has made them believe that one cannot continue one's life without dependence upon either the East or West. In this great revolution, the Iranian people proved that it is a futile and empty claim. Although great powers resorted to every trick and deceit in order to extinguish the roaring flame which has been lit in this country in order to turn the interests of the East and the West into ashes, they did not succeed.

Today Islamic Iran, thanks to the strong faith and commitment to Islam and the great transformation which has come about in all the strata, has cut off the hands of the East and the West and the deviated parasites, and will not allow any power to engage in the slightest interference in Islamic Iran. This is a decisive proof to all Muslims and oppressed people of the world that no one can suppress the wishes of nations. A nation which, between degradation and martyrdom has chosen the latter, is invincible. The wronged nations of the world have no other alternative, and if the governments of Islamic countries align themselves with their own nations they will be saved from this degrading dependence and affiliation -- where death is a thousand times more preferable -- and will embrace human values and human dignity. I beseech Almighty God to make all of us familiar with our divine obligations and human duties.

I should remind the dependent and reactionary governments that with their empty conferences, futile statements and baseless support they will not be able to save the blasphemous and criminal Iraqi regime; and it is possible that they may also sink in the mire in which the Aflaqite Ba'thist Party has been sunk. Therefore, it is in their religious and material interest to give up these comings and goings and not to further drag that wretch Saddam Husayn towards shame and degradation and not to condemn themselves to a material abyss and to retribution in the hereafter.

5. Finally, I shall refer to a vital matter, which is the key to all the problems of world Muslims and the oppressed. Those who ponder a little on the situation in Islamic countries, know that what the two superpowers and their subordinate powers agree on, and would never stop agreeing on, is the forcible restraint of Third World countries — especially large and rich Islamic countries — culturally, socially, economically, politically and militarily, along with the imposition of colonialistic policies in all Third World matters. On this aim, which is extremely important to them, they have spent a great deal of effort, time and money, and still do.

In the past, the ringleaders of these plots were Britain and France, followed by America and the Soviet Union. To attain their accursed aims, they have staged coup d'etats, overthrown regimes, and brought to power regimes subservient to them. It is unlikely for these two superpowers to attempt to overthrow a rival because they have lost faith in him. [as heard] The argument is about sharing the booty and Third World countries. In order to attach new colonies, they attack the cultures of the nations and utilize their universities. By taking control of these centers, they have created made-to-order parliaments and suitable governments. Those who have suffered most in these struggles have been, and are, Islamic countries. For Islam possesses a rich humanitarian culture that moves nations forward without tending towards right or left and without considering color, language and region, and directs mankind in an ideological and practical manner and encourages them to learn from the cradle to the grave.

With their plots the superpowers did not allow Islam's noble culture to grow and flourish. They attacked it through uncommitted universities, Westernized individuals and nationalists. It was through these attacks that Islamic countries received fundamental wounds. If today, the various strata of the nations, clergy, speakers, writers and wise men do not jointly assist suppressed countries and nations by awakening the great Muslim masses, their countries will suffer great ruin and subservience, and the apostate Eastern — and worse, Western -- plunderers will suck their life blood and waste away their dignity and human values.

Today, the markets of Islamic countries are the centers for competition between Eastern and Western goods. Useless luxury goods, toys and consumer goods are pouring in their countries. They have turned all nations into consumers, so that they think life cannot go on without American, European, Japanese and other goods.

O honorable pilgrims of the House of God, come to your senses. O Muslims all over the world, rise. O ulema of the Islamic world, come to the aid of Islam, Islamic lands and the Muslims. Wherever you are, like the Iranian nation, government and ulema, reject the Eastern and Western oppressors. Throw out of your countries their agents, phony experts and oil-plundering advisers.

Like Iranian combatants prefer martyrdom to misery and Islamic and human honor to a few days of fornication coupled with shame, overcome them in the political and military arena, and do not fear their propaganda, for God is with you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 16 August 1985

Demonstrations Begin

LD221807 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 22, IRNA — Thousands of Iranian pilgrims Thursday marched through the streets of Mecca and held a mass prayer in the holy mosque after the world Muslims were called upon to fight against the superpowers.

One pilgrim was injured in the head by the Saudi police and was taken to a nearby hospital. Several others were also injured after a car hit the lines of the demonstrators.

Before the march started, the head of the pilgrims, Hojj. Mehdi Karrubi, addressed the gathering and said Muslims were left with no choice but to fight for their legitimate rights.

He said there was no choice because the United States and Israel as well as the Soviet Union were making aggression against Muslim lands in Palestine and Afghanistan.

Karrubi said unity among Muslims must be achieved before the occupied lands could be liberated.

Karrubi's speech was translated into Arabic for non-Iranian pilgrims who had gathered in the area. The crowd roared their approval.

Several lines of Saudi police in full riot gear surrounded the pilgrims throughout the demonstration. A two-engine plane flew over the meeting place early in the morning.

Karrubi Press Conference

GF230621 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, answered correspondents' questions at his offices in Mecca yesterday afternoon following the march in Mecca. In a press, radio, and television conference, Mr Karrubi stressed that the exclusion of dualists is one of the bases of hajj and the duty of Muslims as prescribed in the Koran.

Responding to a correspondent's question concerning the goals of the demonstrations by the Iranian pilgrims, he said: The demonstrations by Muslims during hajj are designed to remove the hand of the United States and its allies from the region and the Islamic world and to mobilize Muslims to destroy Israel. It is also to liberate occupied Palestine, to air the issues of Lebanon and the innocence of the refugee people of Afghanistan, and finally to stress the unity of Muslims in order to invite them to return to their noble Islamic culture.

Since hajj ceremonies have a political as well as religious dimension, it is the best occasion to discuss the issues of the Muslims of the world and to exchange ideas, and for Muslim experts to find solutions to such problems. Responding to a question concerning the ways to export the revolution, he said: The Islamic revolution of Iran is a philosophical revolution. Its aspects in every field has been established and its export, in the form of taking the message of the revolution to most parts of the world, has now been achieved.

In conclusion, he referred to the extensive participation of Iranian and other pilgrims in the demonstration and thanked and praised them all.

Free Voice of Iran on Demonstration

GF230738 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The propaganda organizations of the regime of mullahs have again created an uproar over religion. The dishonored so-called Voice of the Islamic Republic claimed that 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to the house of the world, together with tens of thousands of other pilgrims, demonstrated in Saudi Arabia following a message by Imam Khomeyni.

According to reports reaching us from Saudi Arabia, the demonstrations by the elements of the Islamic republican regime in Saudi Arabia were small and limited; police and security forces of the country had the demonstrations completely under control. The great uproar created by the incapable propagandists of the regime of mullahs concerning these so-called glorious demonstrations has been the subject of ridicule by our political commentator. He writes: Radio Khomeyni is not just lying, it is truly disgraceful. The Saudi Kingdom allowed the Islamic republican regime to send only 100,000 pilgrims, yet in the confused bazaar of these merchants, their propagandists have claimed that 150,000 Iranian pilgrims demonstrated in Saudi Arabia!

The demonstrations by the claimed 150,000 pilgrims and the "tens of thousands of other Muslims", according to Radio Khomeyni, started with the message of Imam Khomeyni. The twisted minds of the propagandists of the regime of mullahs has given them a humility completely separated from reality. They could have said, and should have said, that millions of pilgrims from all Islamic countries, who have gathered in Saudi Arabia, have been waiting for the message of Imam Khomeyni in order to start hajj proceedings with this holy message; never mind demonstrations!

Meanwhile, the propaganda machinery of the regime of mullahs has to somehow paint over the news of a group of Iranian pilgrims seeking asylum in the Saudi Kingdom. His holiness Imam Khomeyni in his message has sworn at and insulted a number of governments, groups, and movements, including the United States. Apparently, his holiness Imam Khomeyni is a staunch enemy of the great satan, the United States!

I invite you to listen to this item as proof: According to a report by U.S. Department of Agriculture, the United States increased the import of agricultural products from Iran during 1984,

almost doubling that of the previous year. The report notes that in the first 6 months of 1985, the United States purchased pistachios from Iran in a series of deals with the Islamic republican regime. The purchase satisfies 90 percent of the domestic pistachio consumption of the United States. The value of the deal so far has been estimated at over $300 million.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Tehran Friday Sermons

LD231316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] On the eve of government week and on the first Friday following the fateful presidential elections our country's Muslim people throughout the country today observed the religio-political Friday prayers rites. According to a Central News Unit report Tehran's citizens, today as on previous Fridays, observed this week's Friday prayers with their presence at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares and by chanting the slogan "The government of the week enjoys our support!"

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his first sermon during today's Friday prayers in Tehran, embarked on a discourse on Islamic social justice in relations between men and women and contrasted such relations with those in Western societies.

Referring to the fact that in Western society the reality of the existence of women is not taken into consideration, he said: Islam has studied all these aspects and has defined the course of women and men with regard to the responsibility which they shoulder in continuation and protection of mankind. He said: In Western societies they spread such propaganda and pandemonium with regard to women and freedom that even intellectuals could not interfere in this matter. An example of such unbridled behavior is the existence of illegitimate children which in Britain, for instance, make up some 20 percent of all children born and the fact that some 90 million young people under 20 years of age throughout the world have broken away from their families and are living in isolation.

At the conclusion of his first sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing the hope that the Islamic Republic would be able to introduce Iranian women as models for the world, dwelt on women's piety in Islamic society.

According to a Central News Unit report, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his second sermon during Tehran's Friday prayers, said: Despite the vast investments and plans made by world arrogance and counterrevolution for disrupting the presidential elections, these were carried out in the best possible manner with the most fruitful results. He emphasized that the remarkable number of participants in these elections as compared with elections in other countries confirms the fact that our people are extremely steadfast in their chosen path.

In connection with government week, discussing the government's services in the development sector, particularly in agriculture, industry, gas transmission, fuel sources, extending power networks, communications and housing projects, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly declared: The work done by this government during its past term of office was in itself the most successful chapter in the history of our country.

Sermon by Lebanese Hezbollah Official

LD231202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Abu Hisham, a responsible official of the Islamic Amal organization and a Lebanese Hezbollah official, in a brief speech during the Friday prayers in Tehran, addressing the struggling Iranian people said:

Your brothers in Lebanon are in the front lines of struggle against America and Israel and the Lebanese Phalangists. As the result of their Islamic struggles they have been able to expel the occupying forces from their land. He emphasized: Despite the Zionist conspiracies, we are trying to maintain the unity of the Muslims in one rank for the sake of the glory of Islam, and to continue our battles until the liberation of the blessed Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Speaks on Economic Issues

LD231246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, delivered a presermon speech extolling some of the 4-year-long activities of the government and responding to a number of slanderous, baseless and unjustified criticisms.

The prime minister, emphasizing the need for reexamination of his government's efforts during government week beginning today, spoke about administrative reshuffles, economic and manufacturing plants and industrial units as well their management; issues related to foreign exchange and prices; campaigns against inflation and unemployment; domestic and foreign policy; the conduct of the war; and other activities of the government.

He stressed: In spite of disturbances rooted in plots hatched by small groups at the beginning of this government's term, and despite the continuation of internal and external machinations, we have succeeded in reducing the inflation rate to below 5 percent. This comes at a time when some inflation rates are 27 percent in Argentina, 70 percent in Brazil, more than 60 percent in Turkey and 30 Percent in Mexico.

The prime minister also responded to criticisms related to the running of those confiscated industrial plants and units which make a profit, as well as the question of foreign trade and private investments. He said: Out of a 4 trillion-rial budget only 2.4 billion rials will be provided through income tax. This contrasts with the big powers in the capitalist world, such as Britain, which rely entirely on tax income. Furthermore, during wartime such countries as the United States, the FRG and Britain increase their taxes threefold.

The prime minister further added: If we express opposition to some capital ventures, this is in connection with Principle 49 of the constitution [which allows the government to confiscate improperly collected capital acquired through corrupt means].

But is this policy contrary to popular participation of private sector? The total amount of foreign trade related to the confiscated plants of the corrupt ones now under state control is equal to 26 percent of the country's foreign trade. Only that part is under the government control.

In conclusion, he noted the issue of distribution by the government and stated: In wartime we cannot toy with the question of people's food; the government has the duty to provide the minimum for the oppressed people. This ideal is the backbone of government policy in distribution and its control.

The prime minister, giving an example of his government's successes declared: When we took over some of the manufacturing plants, they were operating at or below 20 percent of capacity. Now, we have witnessed a 47 percent growth in our industries in all state supervised plants.

Oil Minister Says Industry Expanding Despite War

LD221646 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Prov., Aug. 22, IRNA — Despite the problems that have been caused by the imposed war, Iran's oil industry has been expanding steadily, Minister of Oil Mohammad Gharazi said Thursday when visiting the Martyr Hasheminejab oil refinery near this northeastern Iranian city.

As an example of this expansion, Minister Gharazi pointed to the fact that last year, the Oil Ministry carried out a total of 80,000 sq meters of exploration and the total by the end of the current year will reach 120,000 sq meters.

Addressing workers in the Hasheminejab oil refinery, the minister said the oil company has been able to perform its functions despite the fact that 18,000 foreign technicians left Iran after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

According to Gharazi, two refineries have been rebuilt, one near Mashhad and the other in Bakhtaran, after the Islamic revolution and thousands of kilometers of gas and oil pipelines laid across the country.

He said that the pipelines saved 2,000 tankers a day from travelling between cities and towns in the country.

President Meets With Lebanese Hezbollah Group

LD221405 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug.22, IRNA — President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday met with a delegation from Lebanon's Hezbollah who are currently visiting Iran. At the meeting, the delegation which is headed by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham presented a report on the activities of Hezbollah in Lebanon as well as the domestic situation there.

President Khamene'i told his visitors that they had succeeded in planting the seeds of Islam in Lebanon, "And the world arrogance did not expect this move of yours, and the successes you have had in dealing with the Zionist enemy have created deep fear in the heart of the world opressors."

The president also said that if the Hezbollah wanted to become a purely political party then it will face certain defeat, and added that the movement had to rely on the great power of the people. "With your revolutionary ideology, you could even attract non-Muslims to your ranks," he said.

The meeting was also attended by the Syrian ambassador to Iran as well as a number of top officials from the president's office and the Foreign Ministry.

Prime Minister Addresses Teachers on Child Care

LD222031 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told a group of educators in Tehran Thursday that if teachers have revolutionary tendencies then the next generaton will grow up with the same qualities. Musavi said Islamic ideology demands respect for children.

Comparing the position of children in the Third World and in advanced industrial countries, the prime minister said that children have improper upbringing in the developing nations and therefore, they become adults who are unable to deal with their social problems.

He said it would be a strong point for Islamic countries to take child care as an important issue and to make them grow in proper scientific and political settings.

Musavi told the educators "We must come to believe that the youth will learn the Islamic ideology and will be able to develop the country".

He said it was impossible for a Third World country to rely on its technological or economic forces. "We have to depend on our responsible and revolutionary forces" he said.

He said children who are brought up in a revolutionary environment can make unprecedented strides in the future.

Tabriz Commentary Lauds Afghan Stance on Talks

GF221728 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners. Political contacts on the future of Afghanistan continue in the absence of the true representatives of the Afghan people. Kabul's Marxist regime is attending these negotiations which are being held with the aim of recognizing the puppet regime's interests.

What is important at this point, however, is that the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have issued statements rejecting any negotiations — including the Geneva talks — related to Afghanistan's Muslim people. Such negotiations are not related

to Afghanistan's bloody Islamic revolution and oppressed people. The truth is that the Afghan people are struggling against the Soviet aggressors and do not wish to recognize the Marxist and puppet regime in Kabul as a legal administration; nor do they agree to the undermining of the results of their struggle.

Although the question of noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs has been raised at the Geneva talks, it should not be forgotten that the talks themselves constitute a blatant interference by the East and West in the Afghan people's future. The Afghan people see U.S., Pakistani, and Soviet participation in the talks as none other than interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The Afghan people want to know why the United States is participating in the talks? If the participants to the Geneva talks really want to find the right way to tackle the question of Afghanistan, then why are the true representatives of the Afghan people not participating in the talks?

It would be appropriate to study the joint disclosure which was issued by the Islamic parties and contemplate on the principles the Geneva conference should be based on. Regardless of the endeavors made by the East and West, neither side wants the conference to succeed. The Afghan people see no difference between the illegal occupation of Islamic Afghanistan and the attempt to legalize interference in that country.

Here are the main points of the joint disclosure made by the Islamic parties of Afghanistan:

1. The Afghan people have equal hatred for both East and West. They have been struggling against every kind of endeavor on the part of the East and West regarding the question of Afghanistan.

2. The Geneva conference constitutes interference in the future of the Afghan people by both the East and West. Any measure in which the true representatives of Afghanistan have not participated is rejected and condemned. The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries will struggle against such measures.

3. The future of Afghanistan must be determined by the Afghan people. The question of having the Afghan people represented through various means cannot be accepted. The three countries referred to should not argue over this matter.

4. To withdraw from strong struggle against the aggressors and the Marxist regime in Kabul constitutes treachery against the Afghan people's martyrs. Moving in the direction of negotiations to resolve the question politically means to be exploited.

5. The Afghan people will continue theur struggle until they achieve their legitimate rights. So long as they act in the interests of the Muslim Afghan people and refrain from concluding accords with their enemies, the groups will maintain their dignity. Should they drop their arms and reach an agreement with the enemies of the Afghan people, this move will be regarded as treachery against the blood the hundreds of thousands of oppressed Afghan martyrs have shed.

The resolute joint statement issued by the Islamic parties of Afghanistan should be regarded as a new page in the history of Islamic struggles in that country. According to the statement, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have agreed to mobilize the Afghan people — both Sunni and Shi'ite — in a way surpassing those in the past in order to oust the aggressor Soviet Army from Afghanistan. They have also reached identity of view on the effort to be made to overcome the effects the offensives made by the Red Army.

Undoubtedly, the Afghan people will tread a very difficult path in the meantime. Nevertheless, resistance to safeguard unity under Islam and achieve the sacred targets of Afghanistan's Islamic revolution will greatly contribute toward the achievement of victory, and, as such, the Afghan people will be proud to tell future generations that they achieved the liberation of their homeland through an unwavering struggle against harmful elements and aggressors and through Islamic resistance.

Foreign Ministry Comments on Talks

GF230533 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Excerpt] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry had the following to say about statements made by the representative of the UN secretary general, Diego Cordovez: The Islamic Republic of Iran announced its clear positions from the first day of indirect negotiations. It refused to participate in such talks and considers such political maneuvers to be beneficial only to the oppressors and against Muslims.

Considering that the true representatives of the Muslim people of Afghanistan are not present during such negotiations, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers them to be of no value. The interests of the Muslim people, especially the Muslim people of Afghanistan who have been fighting the occupation forces for 6 years, do not lie with the interests of the superpowers of the East and West. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers any effort to ensure the illegitimate interests of the big powers to be at odds with the interests of the nations of the region, and at the very least a waste of the crusade and struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

IRNA: Sweden Deports Nationals Seeking Asylum

LD221933 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Stockholm, Aug. 22, IRNA — Following the decision of the Swedish cabinet, the Swedish police yesterday deported thirty people from Iran, Iraq and Lebanon who had requested asylum in that country.

According to the Swedish news agency, none of the thirty who were sent to East Germany had been able to provide convincing reasons for leaving their country of origin and also for asking for asylum in Sweden.

Since two years ago when Iranian refugees started coming into Sweden, this is the first time some are being deported. Over this

period, between 3,500 to 3,800 Iranian nationals, organized by underground organizations, have arrived in Sweden.

These people make their way to East Germany, and then, on their way to a Swedish port city, they destroy their travel documents, and upon their arrival in Sweden, apply for asylum.

A large number of these people have called on the diplomatic mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressing their tiredness of waiting to be processed by Swedish authorities and asking to be permitted to return to Iran.

Convicted Hijacker Executed 21 August

LD221232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The Public Relations office of Tehran's Islamic Revolution Court has announced that Shahram Haj-Mirsandeqi, son of Asadollah, one of the organizational supporters of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] mini-group, who had attempted to hijack an Islamic Republic of Iran's Boeing 727 in Bahman 1362 [February 1984] has been sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out at Evin Prison last night.

Iraqi Military Truck Destroyed by Kurdish Mine

LD221247 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22 IRNA — An Iraqi military truck carrying troops and a command jeep were destroyed with all their passengers killed on Wednesday. The incident happened when the truck hit a mine laid by the Sulaymaniyah branch of the Iraqi Kurdish Muslim peshmerga in the Khurmal region.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraq Shells Abadan, Khorramshahr

GF221514 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the resisting city of Abadan and Arab villages around this city were the target of sporadic heavy artillery shelling by the cruel mercenaries of Baghdad's ruling regime. According to the Central News Unit, three houses and four shops were damaged in Abadan as a result of this shelling. The city of Khorramshahr also was alternatively the target of heavy artillery fire by the enemy.

Communique No 2,205

LD221711 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 22, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants Thursday killed 25 Iraqi troops when they shelled enemy positions in the northern front, said the Joint Staff communique today. The shelling also halted Iraqi efforts in mining the area and interrupted their transportation, said the command in its Communique Number 2205.

Twenty four Iraqis in the southern front and ten others in the central front were also killed or wounded as clashes erupted between the two sides, said the command.

Iraqi planes on mission over the northern front and on the southern port of Abadan were forced to flee the Iranian anti-aircraft guns, it said. One Iraqi patrol in Halabjah region was also forced to flee the Iranian gunners.

Ten enemy vehicles in the central front and another ten in the southern area were damaged or destroyed by the shelling of the Muslim combatants, reported the command.

Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged seven houses in the post of Abadan and its neighbouring Khorramshahr.

Tehran Cites Battle Report

LD230831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 23 Aug 85

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announces: Clashes and an exchange of fire continued on the forward lines of the northern fronts and our heroic combatants, defending their positions, retaliated by subjecting enemy units to their pounding fire. As a result losses were inflicted on 12 enemy tanks, 2 heavy vehicles, a number of light vehicles and ammunition dumps and several diverse trenches of the mercenary Ba'thists. Also thanks to our forces' fire, enemy mining activities were prevented and more than 20 Iraqi servicemen were killed or wounded.

On the central operational sectors an exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the sector and our forces, opening accurate and effective fire, destroyed 6 bunkers and observation posts, 2 tanks and 3 enemy vehicles and killed or wounded at least 20 servicemen.

On the southern fronts there was a sporadic exchange of heavy weapons fire between our own and enemy forces. It was of even greater intensity in the Hoseyniyeh region where losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Our combatant Gendarmerie units, too, defending the areas entrusted to them, opened fire on enemy positions and, apart from disrupting Iraqi engineering operations and vehicular traffic, destroyed eight diverse trenches and one enemy vehicle and set ablaze to one ammunition dump.

On 21 August 1985 as a result of Abadan being hit by heavy enemy shelling three houses were damaged.

Free Voice of Iran on Arms Delivered to Terrorists

GF230615 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The anti-Iranian regime, the so-called Islamic regime, has delivered millions of dollars worth of Iran's arms and ammunition to world terrorists. Treachery by the terrorist-rearing so-called Islamic regime against the Iranian Army takes place even

as the regime spends billions of dollars from the country's treasury to buy arms from the East, from the West, and from arms dealers, which is another form of treachery found in this war-stricken country.

The disgraceful radio called the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated that these arms were collected from the enemies and opponents of the regime and have been delivered to liberation movements around the world. The disgraceful radio listed the weapons as including hand grenades, missile launchers, and even heavy 105 mm guns. The 105 mm guns, grenades, and missile launchers are among the war material taken from the Iranian Army's arsenal during the black winter of 1978. Members of the Iranian Army know that the anti-Iranian regime of the clergy has delivered this war hardware, which belongs to the army and has been looted from it, to world and regional terrorists. The 105 mm guns, hand grenades, and the missile launchers, are not machineguns and hand grenades that can be easily smuggled into the country.

Instead of returning the arms to the Army, the rightful owner, the treacherous regime, the so-called Islamic regime, has delivered them to terrorists engaged in sabotage, murder, and bloodshed against the region's legal regimes. The Islamic Amal and the terrorist Hezbollahs of Lebanon, whose leaders are now visiting Iran, are among those sabotage groups to whom this treacherous regime has handed over the Army's equipment, so that they can destroy their own country and kill their compatriots.

The regime spends millions of dollars to purchase arms from arms dealers so that it can add to the economic prosperity and military strength of the East and the West.